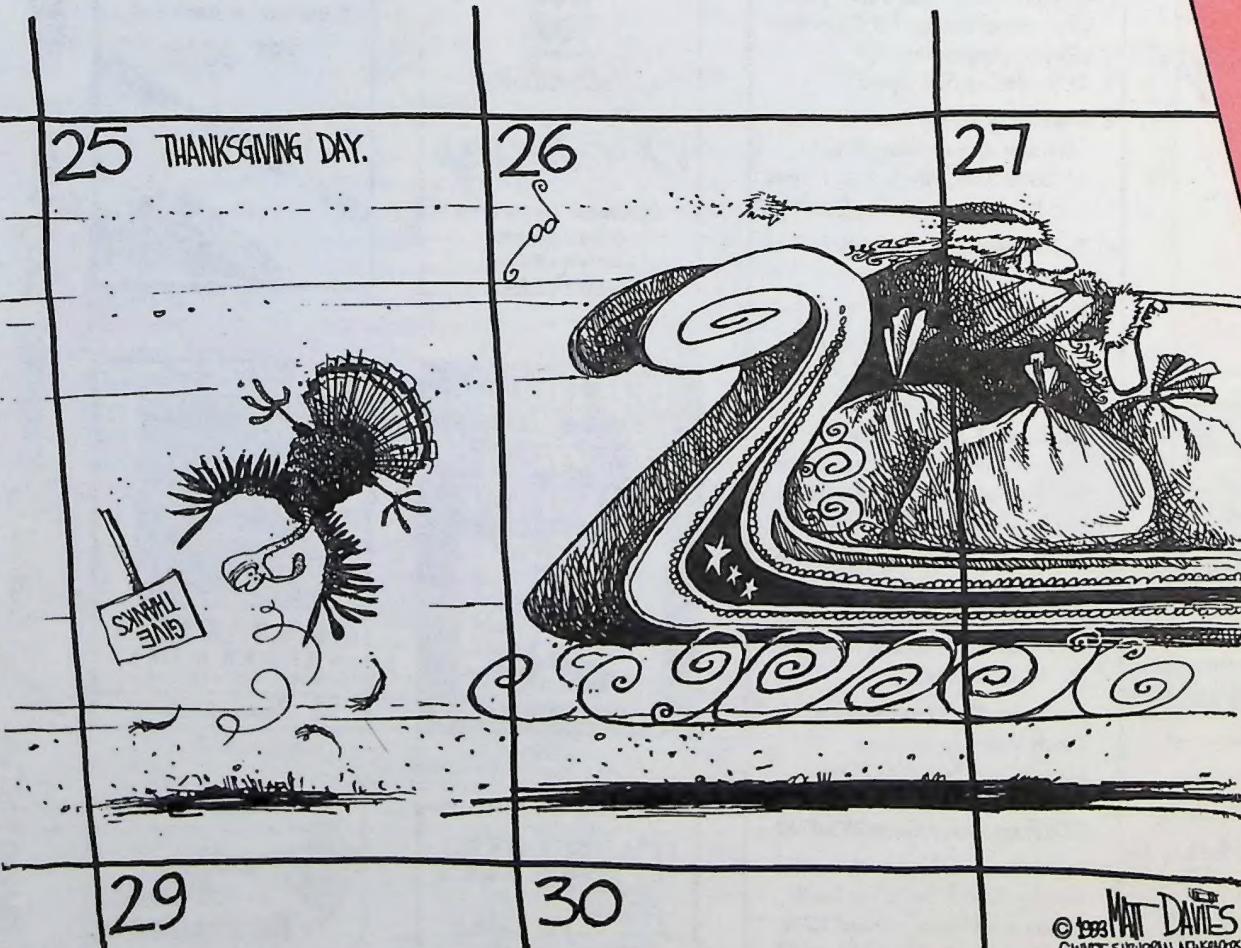


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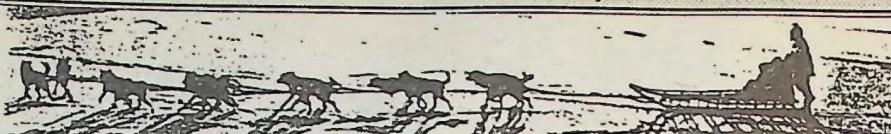
INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
L.A. CUCARACHA,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
LOCAL HEROES,
EARTHWEEK

FREE FREE
FREE

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



Just before Thanksgiving was my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. I flew out to Illinois to celebrate with them. This trip to my childhood home is always harrowing, because I hate flying. *Hate* it. If humans were meant to fly, Icarus wouldn't have fallen into the sea. But he did, and since 1903 way too many other humans have risen toward the sun, with the same appalling results. And it's not just that I think the airplane's wings are gonna fall off, like Icarus's. I don't much trust the floors, either. Years ago there were stories of airplane cabins suddenly getting depressurized when some woman's spiked heel poked a hole in the floor. *That* made me feel safe. So did they fix the floors? Nooooo. Instead, they made a rule that women can't wear spiked heels on airplanes. After that, I used to *really* worry when I went into the airplane bathroom — I worried that the el cheapo floor would give way, and I'd fall five miles into some farmer's field and not be discovered until the soybean harvest. But then I figured out if the bathroom floor *did* give way, I'd merely fall into the baggage compartment. And freeze to death. So these days, whenever I go into an airplane bathroom, I take a down sleeping bag. Luckily, none of those tragedies occurred on my recent flight. So now I can tell you about my parents' wedding, 50 years ago.

In 1943 our nation was at war. My father, just out of dental school and a Navy Lieutenant, figured out a way *not* to see the part of the world we were at war with — by volunteering for a one-year gig at the Grenfell Mission, which was — and is — in Newfoundland. He was assigned to be the *only* dentist for hundreds and hundreds of miles along the Newfoundland and Labrador coast, which hadn't seen a dentist for two years.

Three weeks before he was scheduled to ship out, he and a buddy went over to meet the "new girl" who'd moved into a female friend's apartment. The four of them talked long into the night, especially my father and the "new girl". The next night my father and the "new girl" double-dated at a movie. The *third night* the two of them went out — their first time alone together — and went dancing to Benny Goodman at a Chicago hotel. After the band played "Stardust", my father asked the "new girl" to marry him. Of course she said yes.

Then the fun started. Eighteen days later he left, for what they both thought would be a year of separation. But as the weeks wore on, and the loneliness, he scoped out a way to get through the long, long, long Newfoundland winter. He telegraphed her, saying, "Yo, come up & marry me immediately...and as a bonus, you can be my dental assistant." So she did.

She made it to Newfoundland on the last boat before the ice set in; they were married on a polar bear rug, beneath a bower of spruce boughs, and for six months she rode with him on dogsleds to tiny fishing villages where he would pull peoples' teeth. Her job was to hold the patient in the chair (usually in the patient's kitchen), and when the bucket of blood and pus pockets started to run over, to take it outside, where the huskies would eat it. *I swear to you, I am not making any of this up.*

The next year the Navy tracked them down and said, "You're having entirely too much fun; get your buns back to Chicago." And not too long after that, I was born. Since then, they've lived lives pretty much filled with Midwestern contentment — the sort that's really maddening to Easterners. We celebrated their anniversary by stuffing ten family members into a stretch limo and riding 40 miles to a fancy restaurant in Peoria. When my parents were retelling this story at the fancy restaurant, all activity around us stopped, as the waiter and people at nearby tables intently eavesdropped, to hear what happened next.

What happened next was 50 years went by. Newfoundlanders now use snowmobiles (and *airplanes*) instead of dogsleds. My parents are grandparents. And somewhere in this happy land, unbelievable couples are still dancing to "Stardust."

The Valley Comic News

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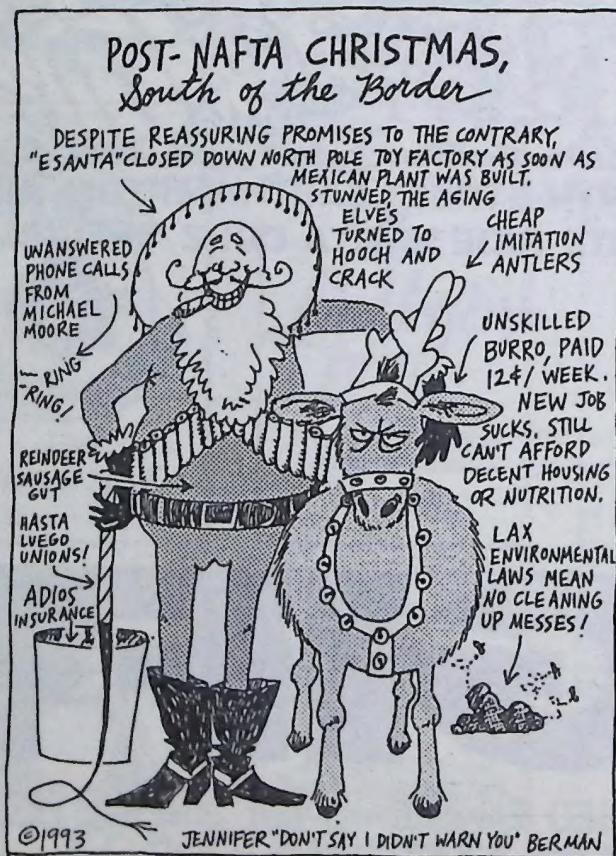
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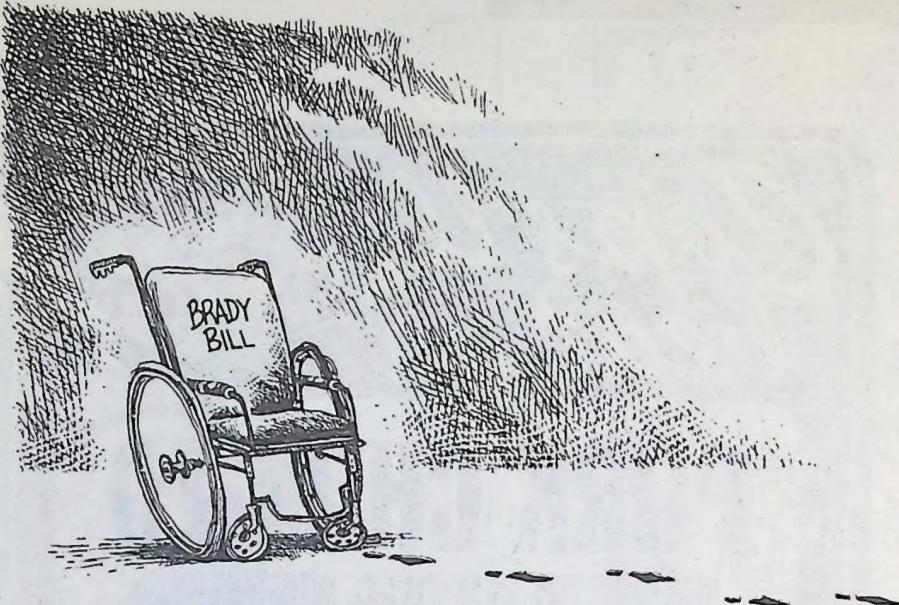


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THIS & THAT



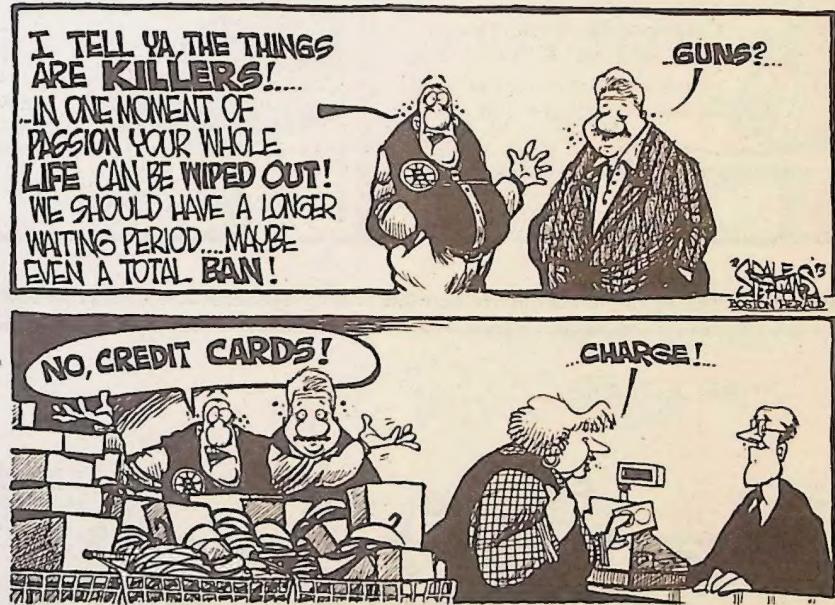
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GANNETT SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS



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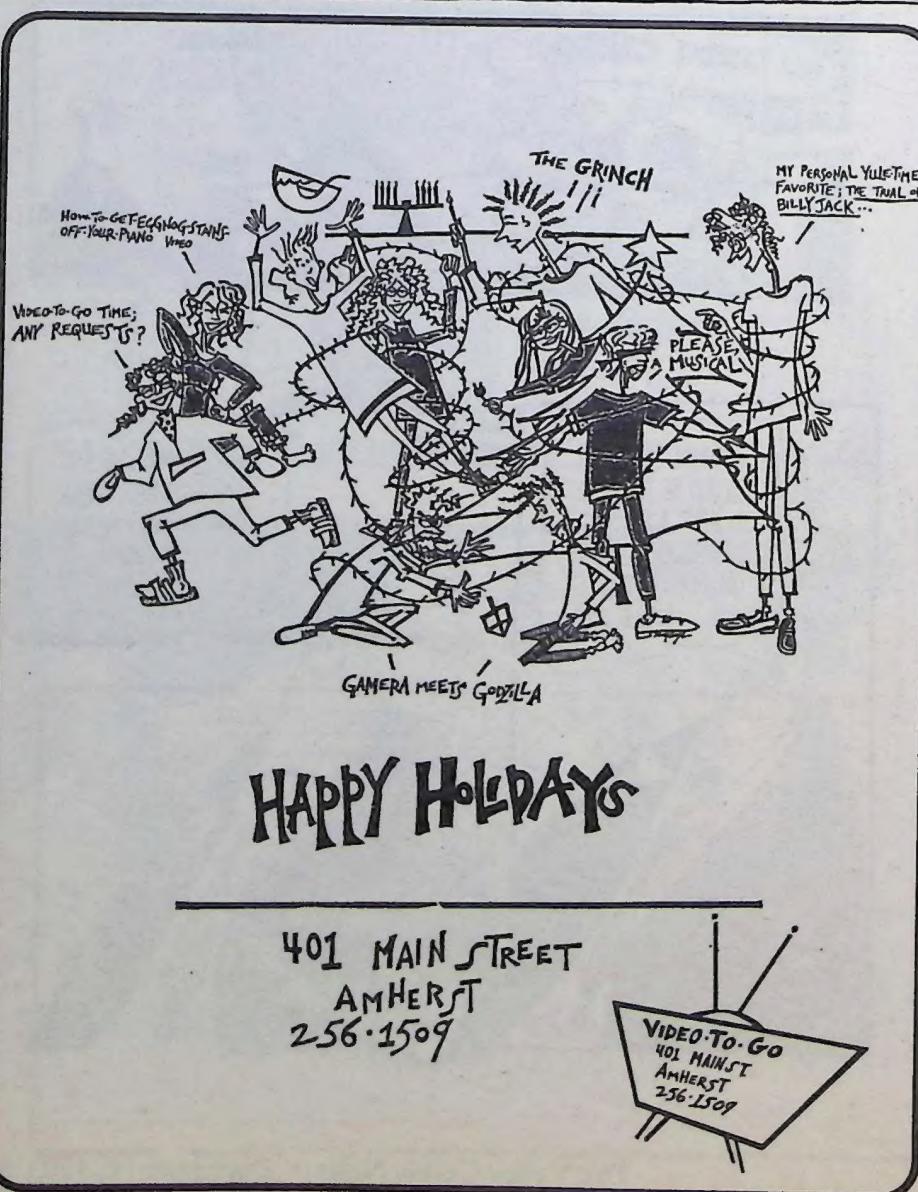
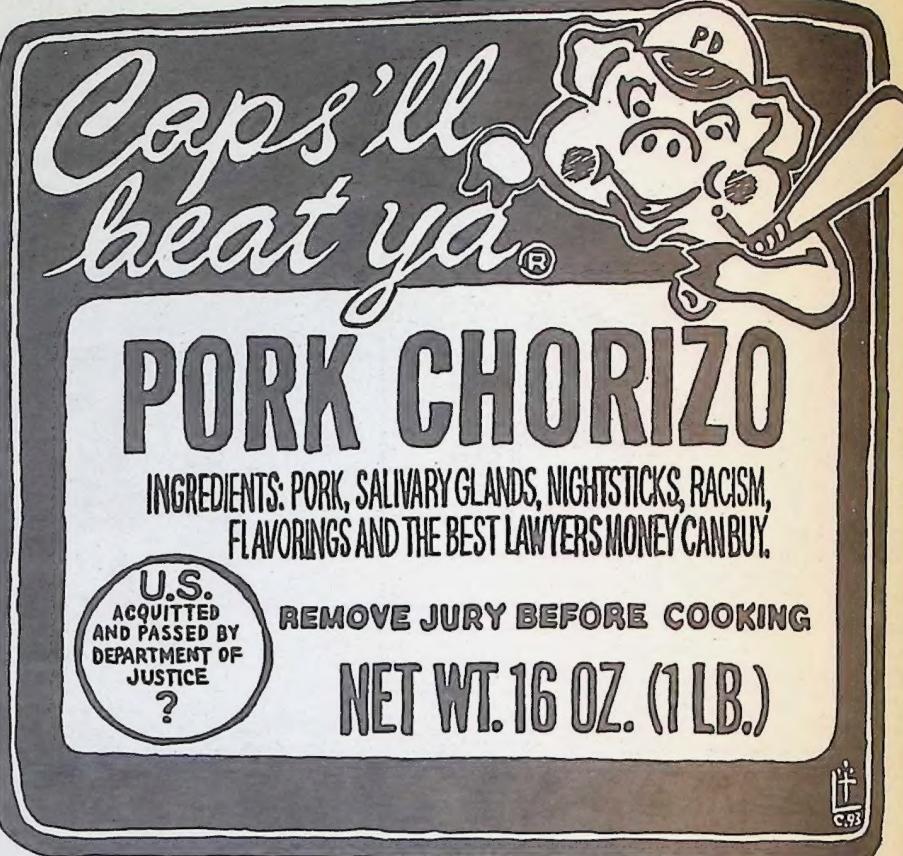
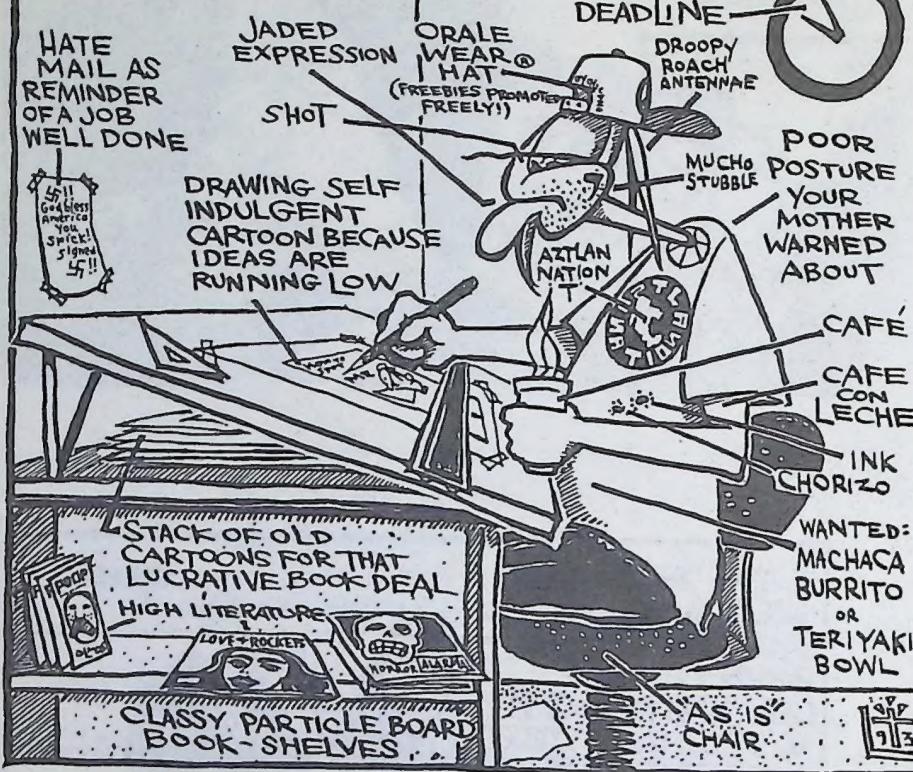


LA CUCARACHA

LALO
ALFARAZ
©93

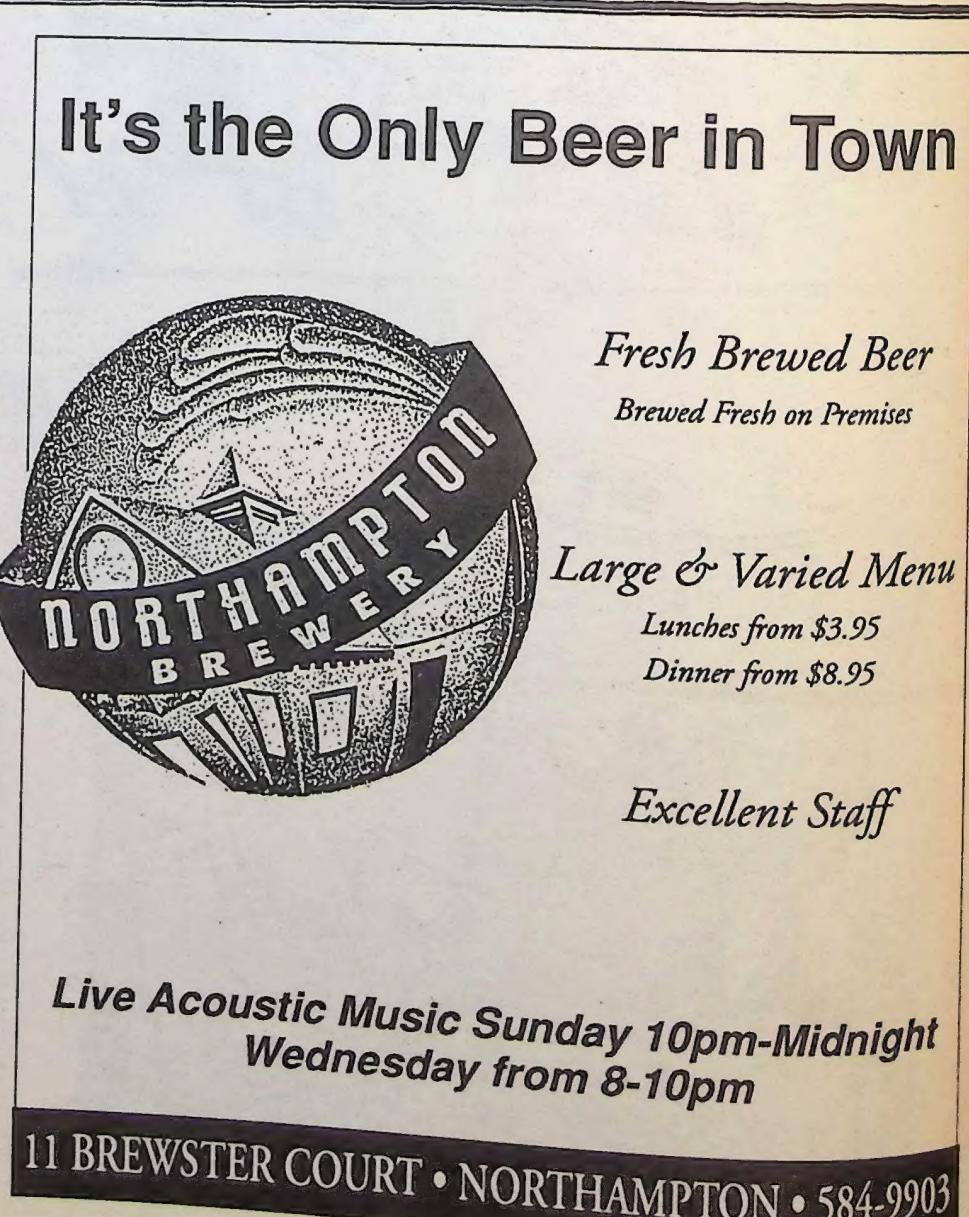
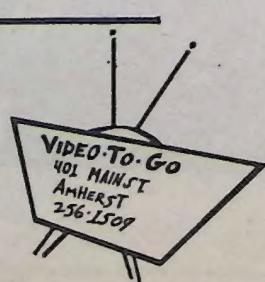
HOW TO SPOT A CHICANO CARTOONIST...

BENICE TO HIM AS HE SHOWS POOR CAREER JUDGEMENT
WHAT TO LOOK FOR:



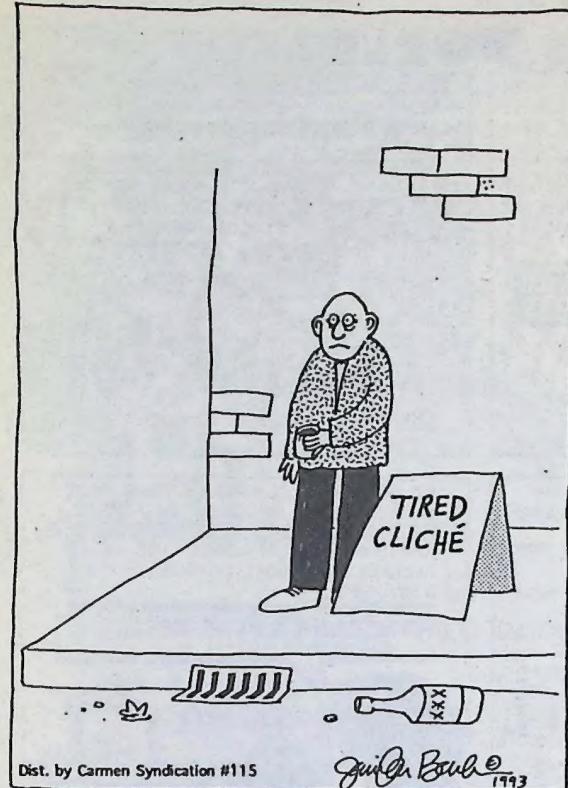
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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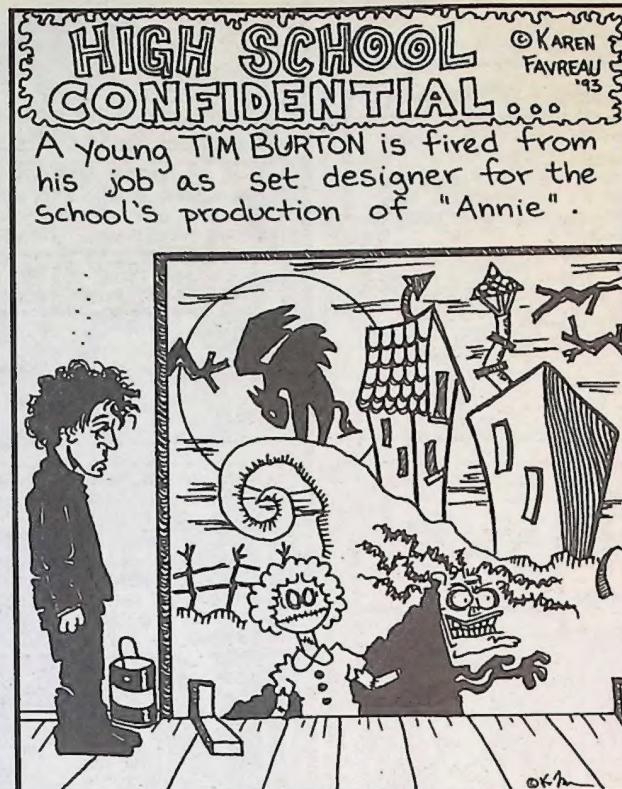


BEYOND POLITIX

BERMAN by Jennifer Berman



Dist. by Carmen Syndication #115



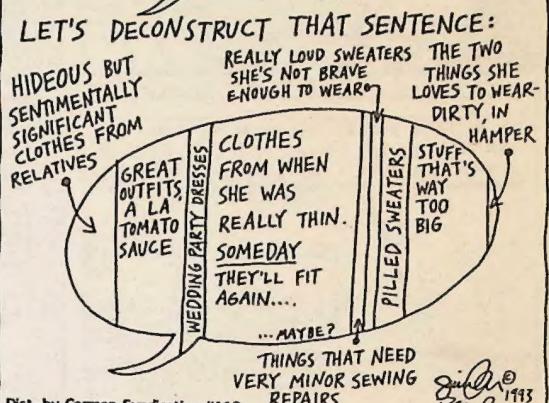
A young TIM BURTON is fired from his job as set designer for the School's production of "Annie".



BERMAN by Jennifer Berman

MYSTERIES OF WOMEN REVEALED, Lesson #7: SHE HAS A CLOSET BURSTING WITH CLOTHES. YET SHE INSISTS:

I HAVE NOTHING TO WEAR!



Jennifer Berman © 1993

LEHMAN by Andrew Lehman



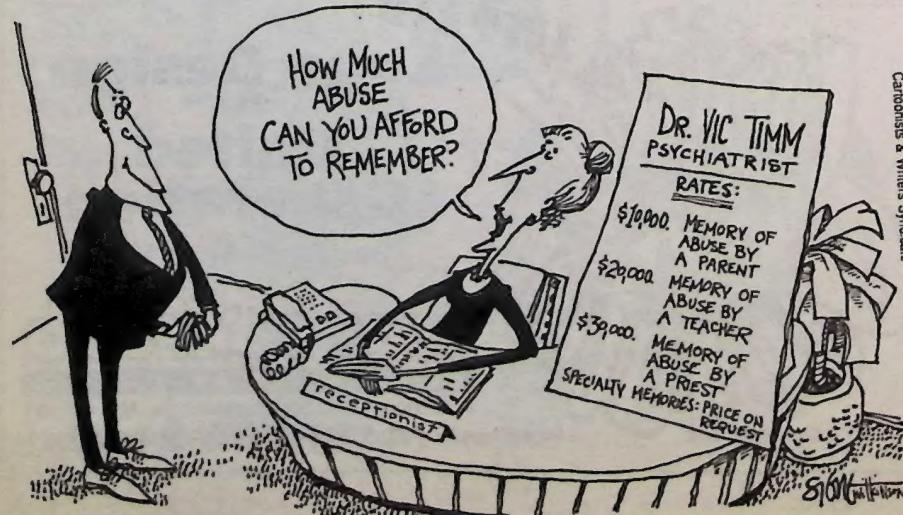
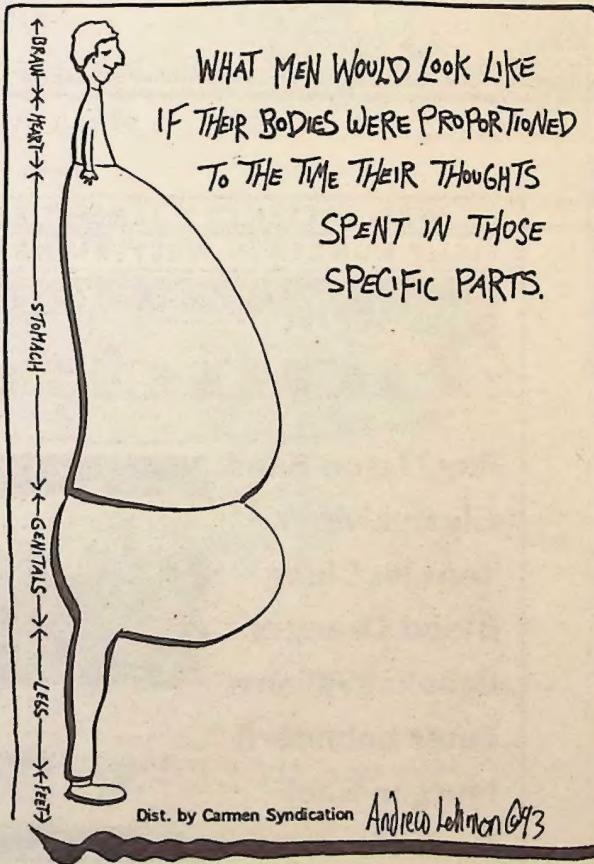
BERMAN by Jennifer Berman

MUSEUM DISPLAYS OF THE VERY NEAR FUTURE

THEY WERE CALLED LETTERS, SON...



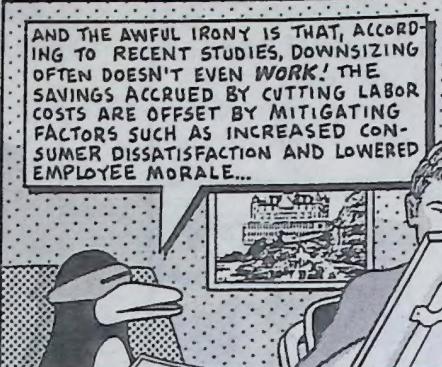
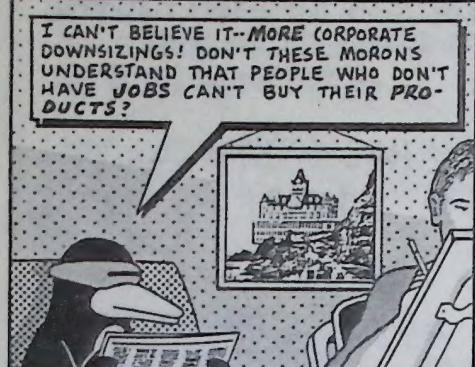
LEHMAN by Andrew Lehman



THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 12-7-93
...WITH APOLOGIES TO MIKE JUDGE...



THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 12-7-93

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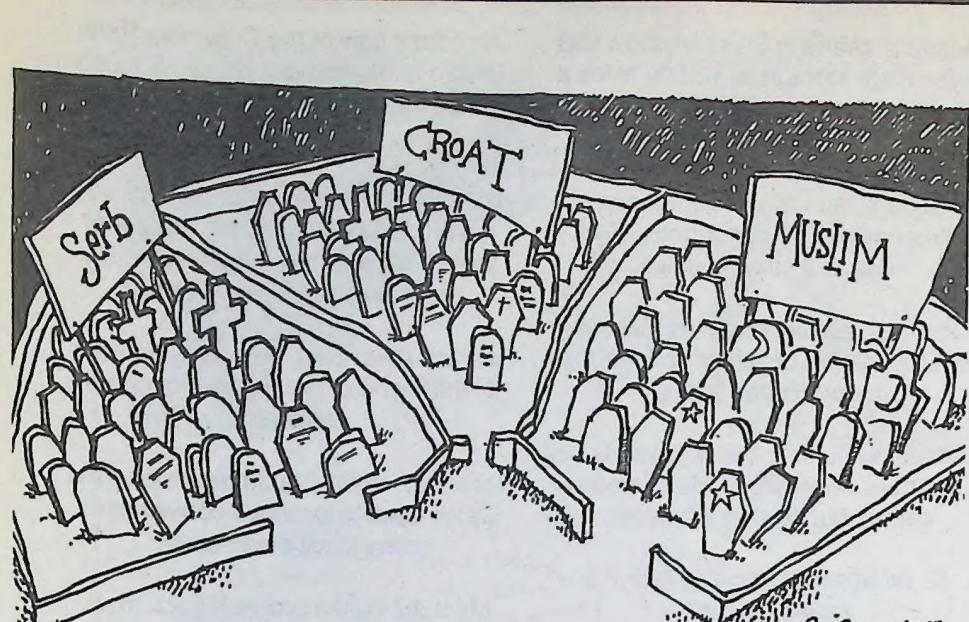
Not Everyone Has Left Town!



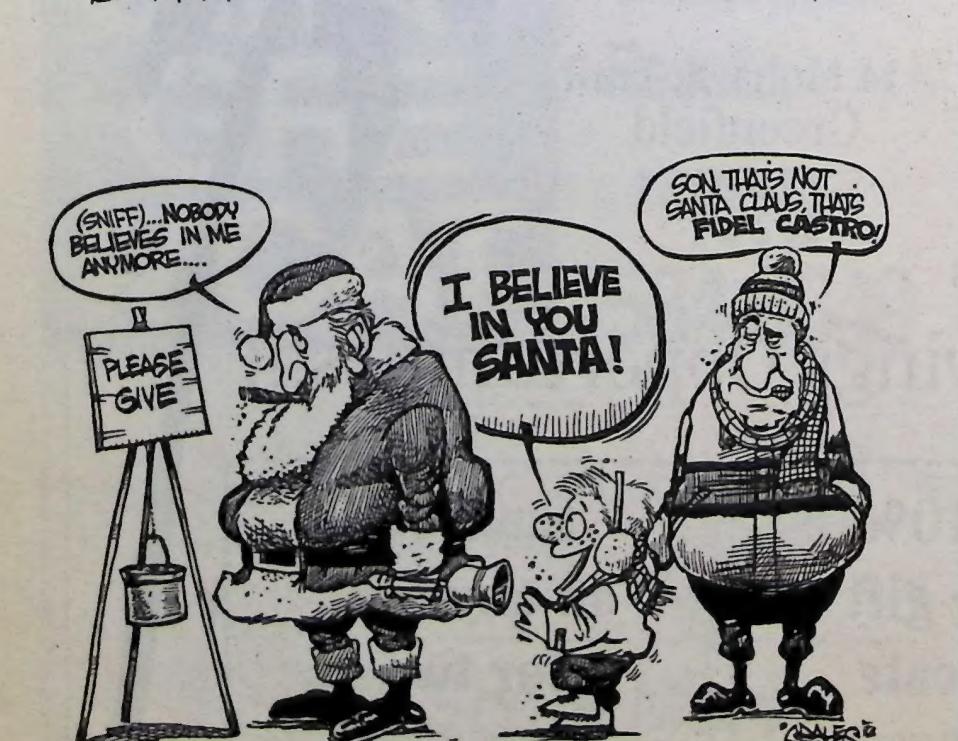
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASIDE

Q. What was the nation's first anesthetic?
A. Cocaine.

One major auto rental company's surveys reveal that more than twice as many men as women claim they never get lost while driving.

Three out of five adults live within an hour's drive of their parents.

The Paradox frog of the Amazon starts out as a 9-inch tadpole, and ends up as a 3-inch frog.

High schoolers who want to run a car wash to raise money should know that — according to market researchers — the more suds you have, the more customers you'll attract.

The animal with the longest tail? — the male giraffe.

Q. What do geologists mean by "the wound that never heals"?
A. An undersea area in the South Pacific. It's about as big as the state of Washington. In it are 1,133 active volcanoes.

If you're having trouble sleeping, try a banana over cereal before bed. The banana contains tryptophan, the natural tranquilizer found also in milk.

Before electric lighting, almost every grown-up on earth knew that the moon rises about 50 minutes later every night, but hardly anybody remembers that anymore.

Cliff-dwelling Indians in Southern Arizona cut designs in sea shells with acid from cactus juice — about 500 years before the Renaissance Italians were credited with the invention of etching.

Q. How did one Irving Sanger save the motion picture industry?
A. That's giving him too much credit. What he did — in the late 1940s — was invent a popcorn bag that couldn't be blown up and exploded. Many movie houses had stopped selling popcorn in bangable bags. But as ticket sales dropped in the 50s, popcorn sales became significant in keeping theaters open.

Aristotle ate crickets.

Actuarial charts in Sweden show that if you drive more than 12,500 miles a year, odds are one in 10 you'll hit a moose.

Bathtub water at the Equator runs neither clockwise nor counter-clockwise, but straight down.

Odd thing about buttons is that they were invented a dozen or so centuries before button holes.

Contrary to popular belief, rayon is not a synthetic fiber. It's made of wood or cotton, but no poly whatever.

Q. What's the typical speed of a racing pigeon?
A. A mile a minute.

Oysters have 20 times more cholesterol than eggs.

A recent female graduate writes: "Sexual harassment is against the law in the workplace, but it's a way of life in high school."

Golf courses are treated with nearly seven times as much chemical compound as farmlands.

An hour's flow of the Columbia River is said to expend just about as much energy as did the Hiroshima atomic bomb.

The biggest meat-eater of all time was a giant Amazon crocodile, forty feet long, eight feet tall, weighing twelve tons, called "Purussaurus."

Martin Luther said, "My greatest wish is that none of my children become lawyers."

British law of the 1800s prescribed the death penalty for those convicted of trying to kill themselves.

Most marijuana growers pack their grass with household garbage compactors.

Remember, you can hold the tack steady for a tack hammer in the teeth of a comb.

Q. Who invented the famous countdown to rocket blast-off?
A. Movie director Fritz Lang in 1929, while filming "The Woman on the Moon."

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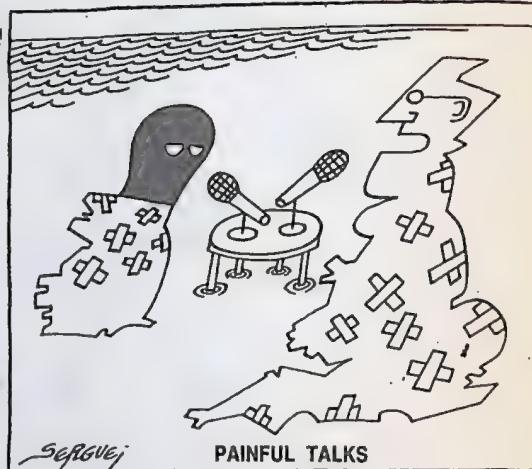
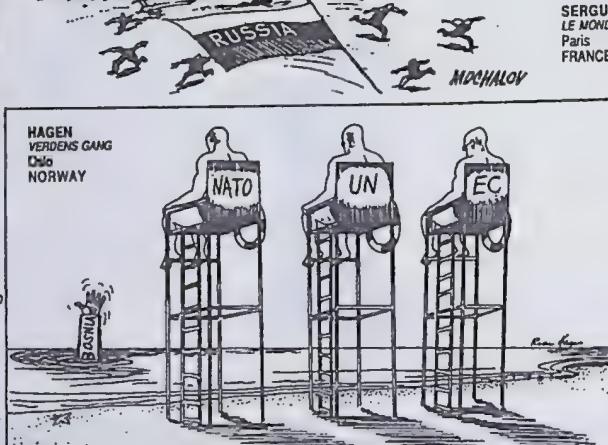
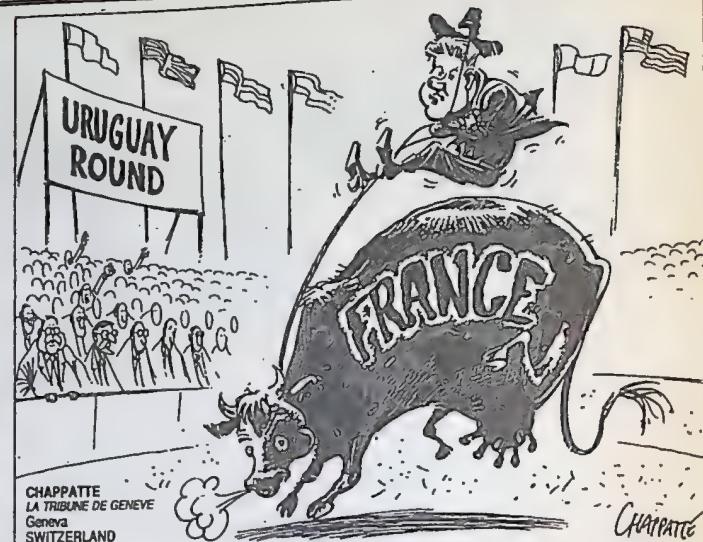
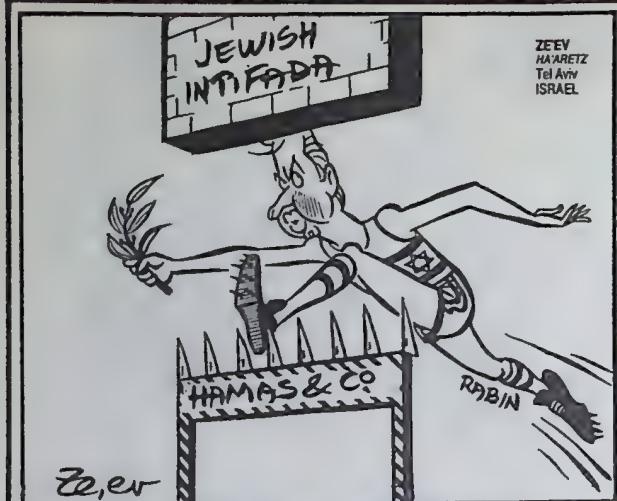
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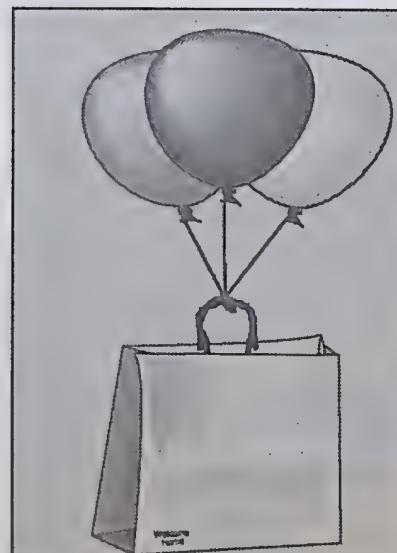
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TEXAS FLOOD

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Sunk Juice

Tues., Dec. 28 - 8pm - 18+

PRO-PAIN

Slow Poke

Fri., Dec. 31 - 8pm

THE BIG BAD BOLLOCKS

Fri., Jan. 7 - 9pm

ZOO STATION

Sat., Jan. 15 - 9pm

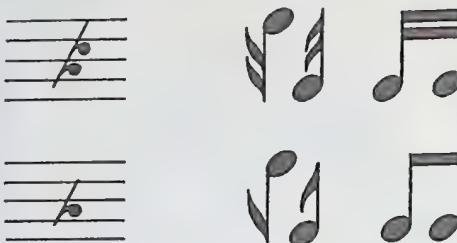
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Winter 1995



THU
SIXTEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution Seven O's: karaoke night Pearl Street: The Unband, Tizzy, Veronica Cartwrights, plus hip-hop dance music by Spin, Inc. Bay State Hotel: Swampgirl, Birthmark Iron Horse: Homegrown Holidays (area musicians)

FRI
SEVENTEEN

Pearl Street: Texas Flood (Stevie Ray Vaughn tribute), Wolfgang, plus top 40 dance music w/ DJ Bob Iron Horse: Kimsa Charlemont Inn: A Man Named Bill Bay State Hotel: The Figgs, Letters To Cleo, The Gravel Pit Green River Cafe: Steve James Vertex: A & E Showcase Peking Garden/Humor Works: showcase & open mic Horizons: Primal Scream (Motley Crue tribute), Montague Bookmill: The Love Patrol — record release party Seven O's: Flipside

SAT
EIGHTEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution Hotel Northampton: Tom Savoy, Gisele L'Italien Green River Cafe: Cathy Winter Seven O's: Flipside Iron Horse: Savoy Brown, with Kim Simmonds Bay State Hotel: Chunk Records compilation fundraiser, Part II — Zeke Fiddler, Lumber, Filth Shack, special guests Charlemont Inn: Mark Nomad Blues Band Horizons: Cosmos Factory Northampton Center for the Arts: Western New England Story Tellers Guild — Winter Solstice Concert

SUN
NINETEEN

Green River Cafe: David Massengill Iron Horse: Arlo Guthrie, plus Susan Werner Seven O's: open mic Northampton Brewery: Hoolapopper Vertex: Overkill

MON
TWENTY

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Vertex: Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve Iron Horse: Arlo Guthrie, plus Susan Werner

TUE
TWENTYONE

Bay State Hotel: Bay State Jazz — Tom McClung Trio (no cover) Pearl Street: White Trash Vertex: Mantissa (free show) Iron Horse: Frankie Manzi Northampton Brewery: open mic

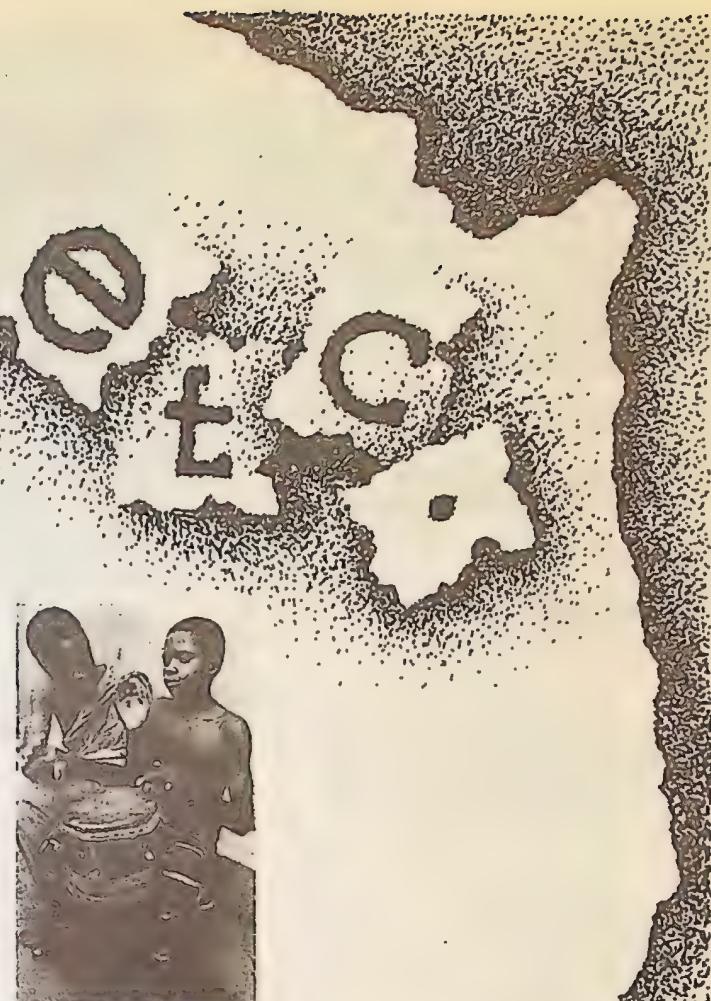
WED
TWENTYTWO

Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Bay State Hotel: free Christmas show — The Puppet Museum Northampton Brewery: Ben Demerath Seven O's: Jud & The Snowmen



Angry Johnny & The Killbillies at the Bay State Hotel

Tobey photo



Seven O's: karaoke night **Pearl Street:** 18+ hip-hop dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Vertex:** Selectrocution Bay State Hotel: fabulous holiday show — √ Please!, Raymond & The Circle, Coco Puffs **Horizons:** Tracy & Co.

THU
TWENTYTHREE

FRI
TWENTYFOUR

SAT TWENTY EME

SUN TWENTYSIX

MON TWENTYSEVEN

TUE
TWENTYEIGHT

WED TWENTYNINE

STAY HOME & GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Hotel Northampton: Dennis Milner Horizons: Tracy & Co.

A black and white line drawing of a person from the waist up, wearing a camouflage jumpsuit. The jumpsuit has a front zipper and a belt. The person is standing with hands on hips, looking slightly to the side. The background is plain.

Northampton Brewery: Dave Salamander, O'Connor & Lees Pearl Street: Country/Western dancing Iron Horse: John Martyn Cafe DiCarlo: Sara Schnadt — art show opening

Vertex: Gay Nite, w/ DJ Steve Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Iron Horse: Boomful of Blues

Green River Cafe: open mic, w/ Rob Skelton **Iron Horse:** NRBQ, featuring a special holiday tribute to Sun Ra
Northampton Brewery: open mic **Pearl Street:** Pro-Pain, Slowpoke

Pearl Street: Gay Night w/ music by Spin, Inc. Iron Horse: Poussette Dart band

IRON HORSE

THE MUSIC HALL

THU 16

HOMEGROWN HOLIDAYS

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Early Winter

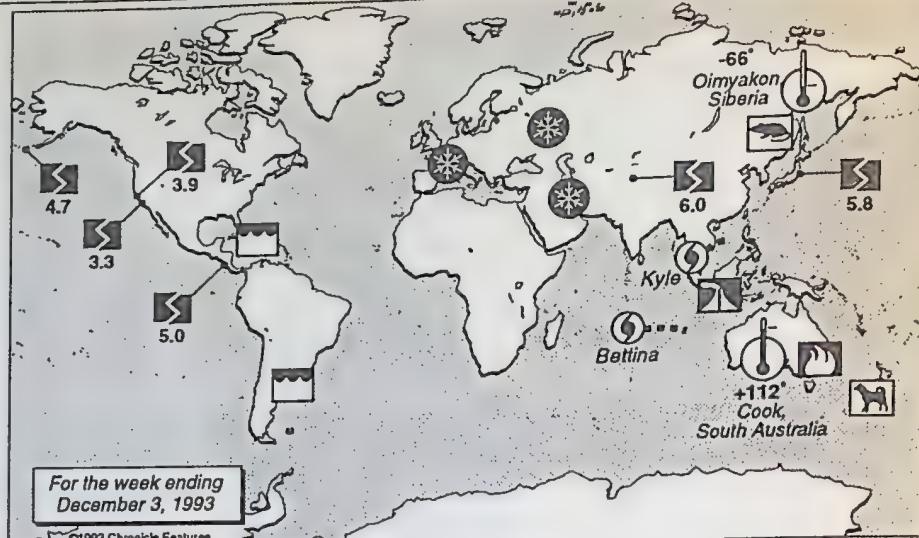
Vicious late-November storms brought bone-chilling cold and other mid-winter conditions to the middle latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. Europe was especially hard-hit, with icy winds and frozen precipitation closing airports and motorways from northern France to Moscow. The Russian weather service, Rosgidromet, said the cold snap was the worst around the capital since the notorious chills of World War II.

The unexpected severe freeze caused critical power shortages in many Eastern European countries. Truck-manufacturing plants and schools in Belarus were closed for several days because there wasn't enough fuel to heat the buildings or run equipment. Blizzards across Romania snapped power lines in the northeastern region of the country, leaving more than half a million inhabitants without electricity or rail service.

Areas as far south as the Persian Gulf suffered from the massive storm's frigid north winds. Heavy rains and snow unleashed avalanches in northern Iran.

Rat Tasters

Russian customs officials have employed a group of rats to test for contaminated agricultural products from neighboring China. The Tass news agency reported that the administration of the Russian Far Eastern Maritime Territory will not let Chinese potatoes into the country if their chemical content is so high that the rats won't eat them. In a low-tech screening technique employed at customs checkpoints, the rats are offered samples of both Russian and imported Chinese potatoes to see which they will eat. Regional agricultural officials said that some imported spuds contain unhealthy amounts of nitrates which are used to stimulate their growth.



Floods

Pope John Paul II dispatched condolences to victims of the heavy flooding that swamped areas of extreme eastern Cuba. Four days of heavy rainfall across Guantanamo, Holguin, and Santiago de Cuba provinces forced more than 44,000 residents from their homes.

Hundreds of people in metropolitan Buenos Aires fled their houses and apartments as the rising Rio de la Plata inundated neighborhoods of the Argentine capital.

Earthquakes

More than 100 homes were flattened by a sharp tremor near China's western border. Officials estimate that 20 people were injured near the fabled trading city of Kashi.

Earth movements also were felt in northern Japan, the Aleutians, western Nicaragua, and in northern and central parts of California.

Tropical Storms

Typhoon Kyle lashed southern Vietnam with high winds and flash flooding that killed more than 35 people. Thai officials reported that heavy rains from the storm's remnants caused floods which killed three in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.

Tropical cyclone Bettina developed over the open waters of the central Indian Ocean.

Wildfires

Brushfires raged out of control on the outskirts of Sydney as hot, dry winds from the Australian bush defeated efforts to put out the flames.

Volcano Warning

Indonesian authorities in central Java warned villagers near Merapi Volcano to be alert for a possible eruption. The 9,547-foot mountain has spewed lava down its slopes several times during the past three months.

Hercules

A farmworker shot dead a huge killer dog which took on legendary status after it slaughtered hundreds of sheep. In a three-year rampage, it outwitted a helicopter gunship and eluded the New Zealand Army's best marksmen. Nicknamed Hercules, the once-domesticated dog roamed the Whiterock area north of Christchurch, living through one of the harshest winters this century by feeding on the sheep. Soldiers tracking him in vain had spent nights in sheep-pens in an effort to disguise their human scent. In the end, it was farmworker James Duckworth who spotted the rogue Rhodesian Ridgeback-bullmastiff and slew the mighty Hercules with two shots.

Additional Sources: Japan Meteorological Agency, Meteo France Forecast Office at Reunion, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Tropical Storms

 High winds and flooding from typhoon Lola killed more than 250 people across the central Philippines. The storm later strengthened over the South China Sea and lashed central Vietnam, killing at least 11 people and blowing the roofs off 1,000 homes. A second powerful typhoon, Manny, was taking dead-aim on the central Philippines late in the week.

An unnamed tropical cyclone from the Bay of Bengal killed at least 23 people in southern India as it collapsed buildings, uprooted trees, and knocked out communication links to the region. Floods caused by heavy rains along the southern edge of the storm forced an estimated 50,000 people from their homes and destroyed 1,000 houses in war-torn northern Sri Lanka.

Earthquakes

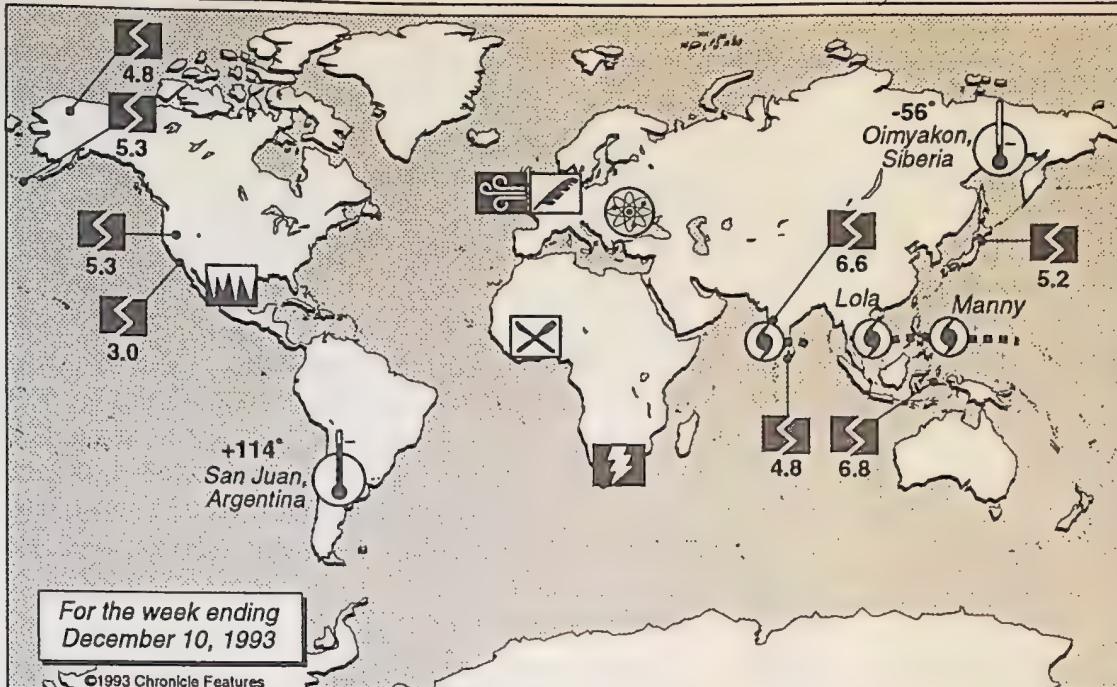
 An elderly woman in western India died from shock during a sharp tremor in Maharashtra State. Tens of thousands of others fled their homes as the aftershock of October's devastating tremor rocked the region.

One of the most powerful tremors to rock Sri Lanka this century killed four people when their house collapsed in the northwest of the island nation.

Earth movements also were felt in northern Japan, northern Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, southern parts of both California and Oregon, and around the Molucca Sea.

Lightning Deaths

 Seven South African youths were killed by lightning at a bush camp school near Heilbron in central Orange Free State. One 15-year-old boy was taken to a hospital after surviving the electrical charge, which razed the hut in which the youths had taken shelter.



Double Threat

 Massive brush fires and rampaging elephants are devouring vast tracts of farmland in northern Ghana. Agricultural officials warned of food shortages due to the loss of 25,000 acres of rice, sorghum, millet, and beans. Police are attempting to divert the marauding elephants from neighboring Burkina Faso without further provoking them.

Mexican Chill

 Frost and freezes in northern Mexico have claimed the lives of 570 people, mainly children and the elderly, during the past two months. Sub-freezing temperatures have been recorded in Ciudad Juarez and the city of Chihuahua. The government blamed the population's carelessness and "disregard for the elementary means to protect themselves from cold and infections" as the cause for the high mortality rate.

Contamination

 A leading Russian geo-chemist warned that radioactivity from the Chernobyl nuclear accident is seeping into water supplies. Valery Kopeykin announced that traces of plutonium and americium will seep from beneath the disaster zone into the Dnepr River, and finally the Black Sea. Cancer rates could soar not only in the Ukraine, but also in neighboring coastal areas of Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey if this occurs. "What's most unexpected is that the process is happening so quickly," said Kopeykin. "Never have I read about plutonium spreading so quickly."

Atlantic Storm

 Gales and hurricane-force winds whipped across Europe from Scotland to Germany, killing at least nine people. Many of the victims died after being struck by falling debris.

Chicken

 Four men who accepted a \$15,000 challenge from a British animal-rights activist to live for a week like hens in mechanized chicken farms chickened out after just 18 hours in a cold, cramped cage. The men, who each accepted the bet for their one-fourth share of the booty, emerged from the cage sore and hungry, and blue with cold. The containment area was only three feet square and just over six feet high, and had no sanitation facilities. "I think I have proved a point," said animal rights-activist Rebecca Hall. "These men experienced tremendous discomfort, and yet we subject animals to these conditions all the time, imagining that they have no feelings."

Additional Sources: British Broadcasting Corporation, Indian Bureau of Meteorology, U.S. Military Joint Typhoon Warning Center at Guam, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization.

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JOE BOB BRIGGS

The courts have started snatching babies away from lesbo couples and giving them to grandma. And this is not too surprising, since courts have always grabbed babies back from gay-guy couples, and, come to think of it, they're not too crazy about single-parent homos, either.

And the reason, as far as I can tell, is that the judges think the baby will get all twisted up psychologically if it grows up in a gay environment. Some of 'em even believe in the monkey-see, monkey-do theory of child-rearing, which says that whatever the kid sees mom and dad do — or mom and mom, or dad and dad — he'll start doing himself.

Actually, if we ran statistics on this thing, I think we'd find that *most* kids — I would put the figure up around 90 percent — try to do the *opposite* of what their parents do. If dad has short hair,

the kid wants long hair. If dad has long hair, the kid becomes a skinhead. So really, all the gay-hating fundamentalists who are worried about kids becoming gay should *welcome* gay-child-rearing, under the assumption that the kid is gonna wake up some day and wanna go trolling babes in Fort Lauderdale, *just to make daddy mad*.

Another advantage to it, as far as I can tell, is that it's the only kind of parenting where the parent has to pass a test *up front*. The gay couple has to either get custody, or go through artificial spermatization counseling, or convince an adoption agency, or *something*, to prove that they've got the time to do the job and they *want* to do the job.

Because basically what we're talking about here is doing a job. It takes about five seconds to get pregnant, right? And in my white-trash neck of the woods, it

normally takes about *one* second of actually *planning* as to whether you're gonna get pregnant or not. And then mom might or might not want this baby. The dad might or might not want this baby. But they don't have to say anything, do anything, or sign anything. It's *their* baby. And they can yell at it for the next 18 years, dress it in cheap clothes, send it to bad schools, feed it bad food, and basically yo-yo it into White Trash Hell, and *nobody cares*. Nobody.

But with gay couples, *everybody* cares. Everybody's watching. Everybody's checking up. Feed the kid too much junk food, and some busybody teacher down at the day-care center is gonna be calling up child welfare. Send the kid out wearing the same clothes he wore yesterday, and everybody's gonna think he's being raised in a pig sty.

These judges think that the kid is hanging around the house,

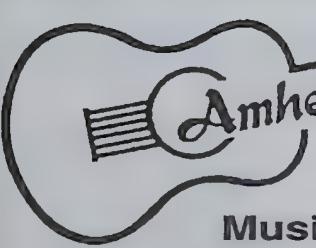
sponging up all the homosexual talk he can, wondering about his identity all day. But the kid could care less about all that. He's doing what all kids do. He's *trying to manipulate the grown-ups into buying Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

This is not hard to fix. If they love the kid, leave 'im alone.

The kid will *figure it out*. He really will. He'll figure it out before the judges will.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, PO Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221. Joe Bob's FAX line is always open: 214-368-3210.

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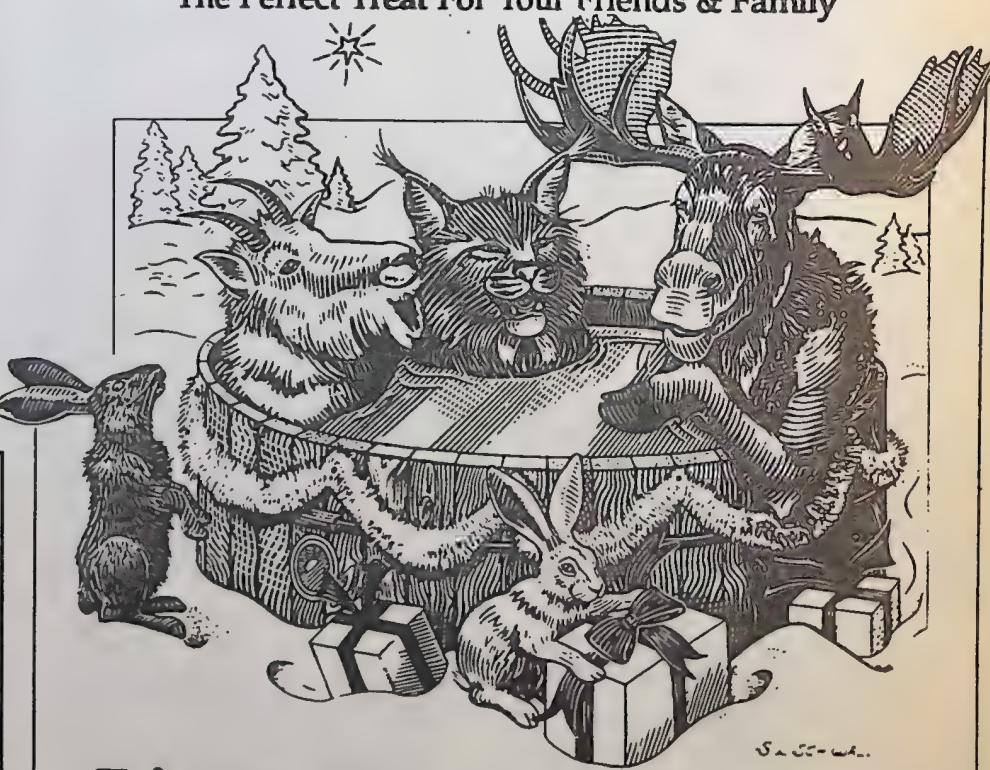
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Leold

by Roger & Salem Salloom

Hey, my brother came home from the Navy today!
We thought he was dead.
He owes me \$20.
He looks good. He's got some stuff wrong with his body but he still looks good.
He owes me about \$10.
He said he feels great and he said some gentle stuff to my mom and dad. I haven't talked to him in 15 years. I'm so glad he's back. A part of my life has been returned to me.
I think he owes me \$3.
We cried. I never cry or, at least, I never know if I'm crying.
I owe him a little \$.
I'll pay him soon.



humor me

by Izzy Gesell

Four years ago I left my steady, predictable job and committed myself to becoming a freelance writer, comedian and humor consultant. It's been going pretty well, thank you. I've gotten used to not getting a regular paycheck, which has made me appreciate even more the checks I *do* get. I've gotten used to getting out of bed, going into my room—uh, excuse me—my office, and settling in to work without anyone telling me what I have to do. I've even gotten used to being unable to call in sick, because I know the boss won't believe me. In fact, I thought I'd gotten used to everything about working for myself. There was one aspect, however, that I hadn't thought of. Last week I ran out of paper clips and was at a loss as to what to do next. You see, I've never, ever, had to buy my own office supplies.

It never occurred to me, until that moment, that individuals purchase things such as paper clips, staples, post-it notes, envelopes, and rubber bands. Those things are always available where you work, and it's expected that a worker supply his or her personal stationery needs from the stock at the job. Is there anyone out there who doesn't have office supplies taken from the worksite? This is one category of theft that is universally justified because the rationale is so pure: "they don't pay me enough;" "no one will ever notice;" and the universal belief that "they expect this stuff to be taken."

I've always had paperclips lying around, so I looked through the places where paper clips traditionally hide within my life—in the jar that holds screws, nails, and picture-hook parts; behind the silverware organizer in the kitchen drawer; alongside the center console in the car; underneath the couch cushions; at the rear of the mis-matched sock drawer in the bureau. Nary a clip did I find. What to do? What to do?

Sifting through my well-stocked desk drawer made me feel like an archeologist, as each layer uncovered a different era of my life. Looking through my reserve of purloined office supplies made me realize how interesting a work history I have: A New York City Board of Education stapler, a jar of rubber cement from the corrugated container company, legal pads from the deli, adding-machine rolls from the telemarketing company, #10 envelopes from the human service agency, a box of ROUND HEAD, 1" SHANK Brass Paper Fasteners from who knows where, an ARTGUM eraser from when I sold greeting cards, and two boxes of staples. One box of staples is so old it must have been taken by my father when he left one of his jobs, because the address on the box is pre-zip code. "COMMUNITY STATIONERS," it reads, 4918 13th Avenue, Brooklyn 19, NY."

So the good news is I still have all this stuff; the bad news is I still need those paper clips. Where will I get them? I got an idea! I'll take a sabbatical from the Comic News. Yeah...This is the Valley, and everyone's entitled to half a year off. Hey, all right! See you in September. Now, where do they keep their paper clips around here?

Editor's Note: Izzy's not kidding, folks -- he really is taking a sabbatical. He's on his way to the Big Time with his humor-consulting biz, and needs to spend a few months in schmooz city with the movers and the shakers. We wish him luck. Maybe he'll hire us someday.



Photo: Jennifer Burdick

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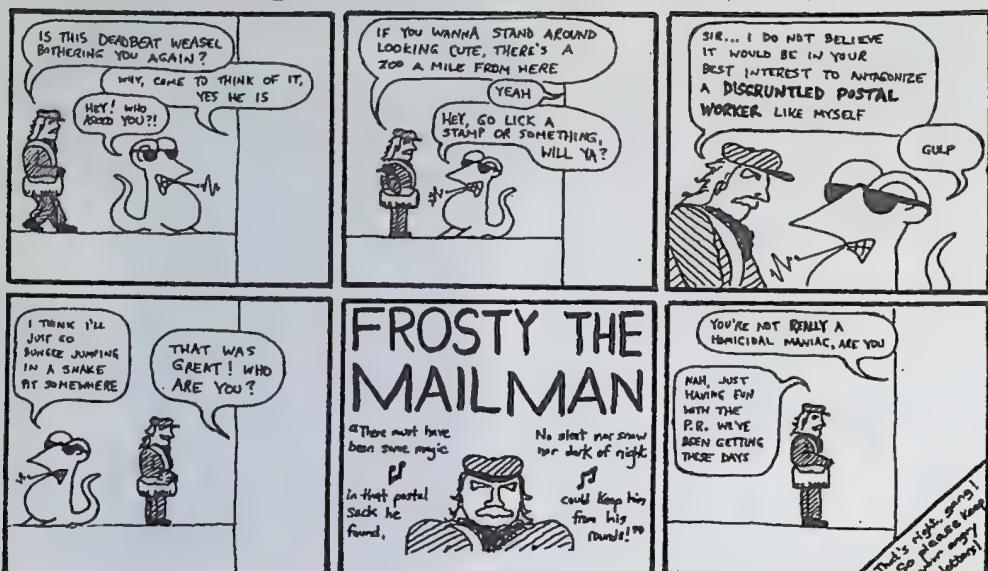
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Bernard Hooper:
A Surprisingly good date.

dog feathers

by Giles Hopkins

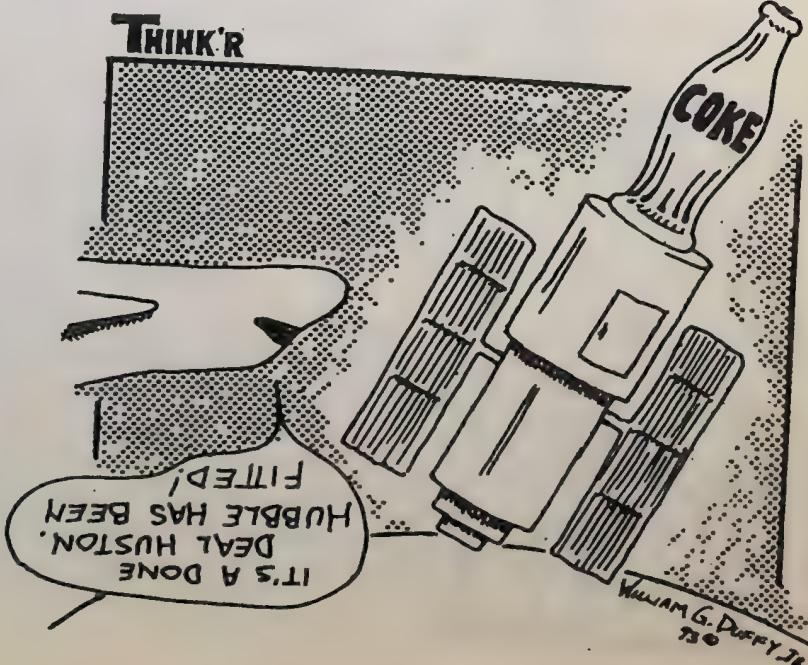
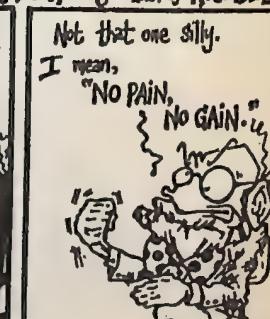
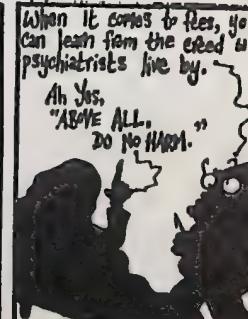
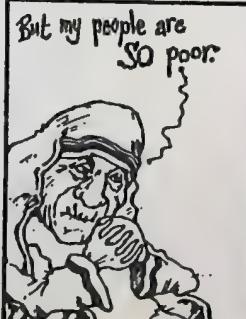


ZIPPO WOKE UP FRIDAY MORNING AND REALIZED HE HAD BEEN ASLEEP FOR TWENTY YEARS.

Star Shrinker

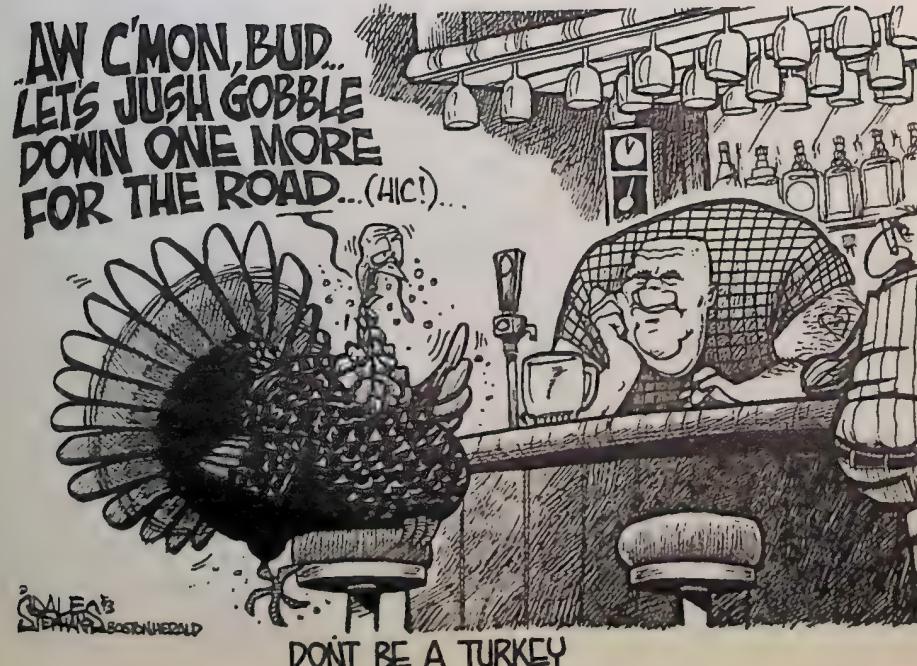
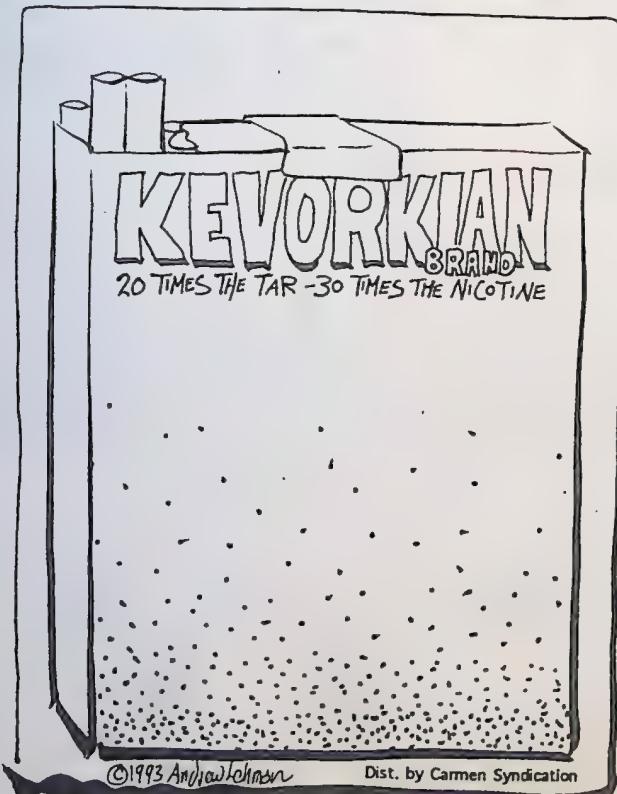
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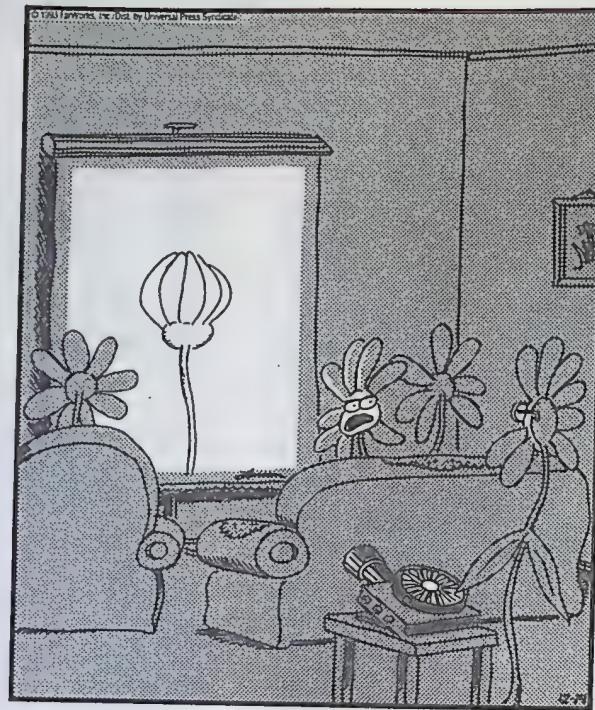
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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Suddenly, the car struck a pothole, the glovebox flew open, and Sparky knew the date was basically over.



"Dang it, Morty! ... You're always showing this picture of me you took at 7 o'clock in the morning!"

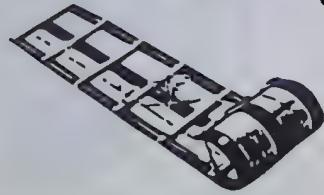


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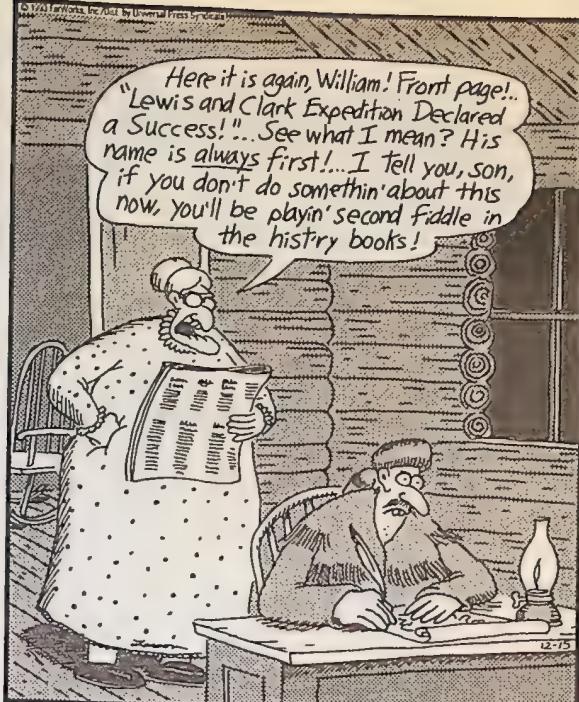
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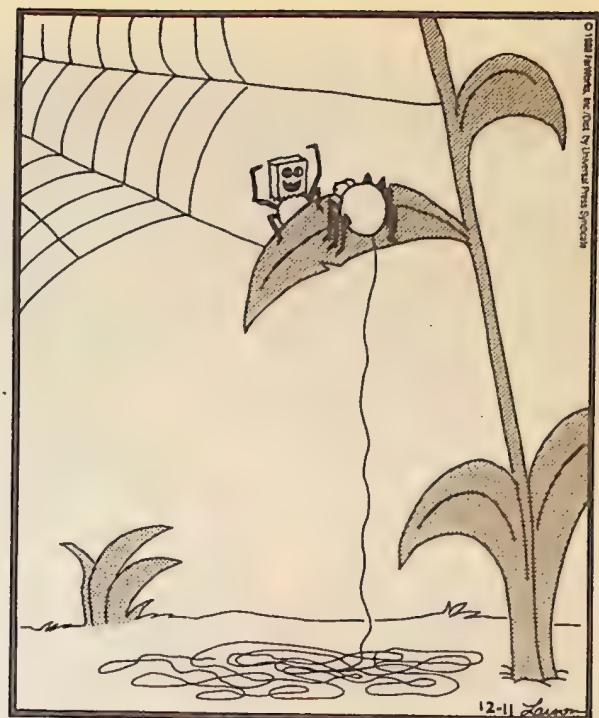
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In their sibling's shadow



Clark's mother



"Hey Bob ... did I scare you or what?"



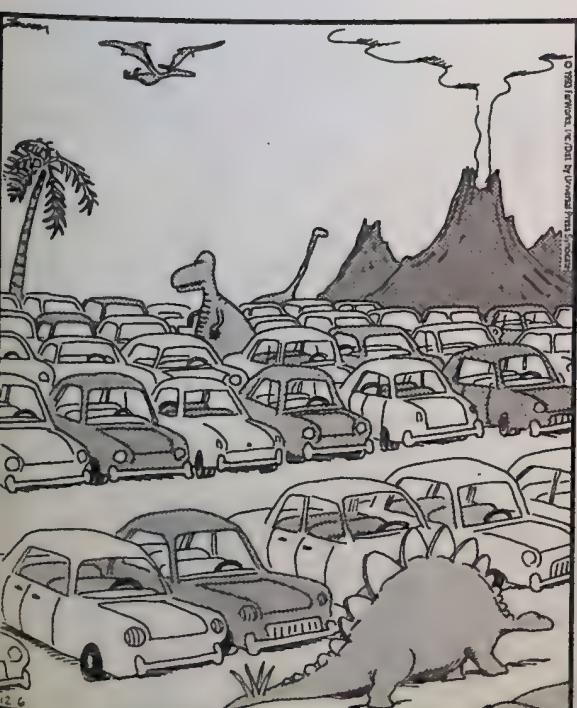
"Just keep starin', buddy, and I'll show ya my bad eye!"



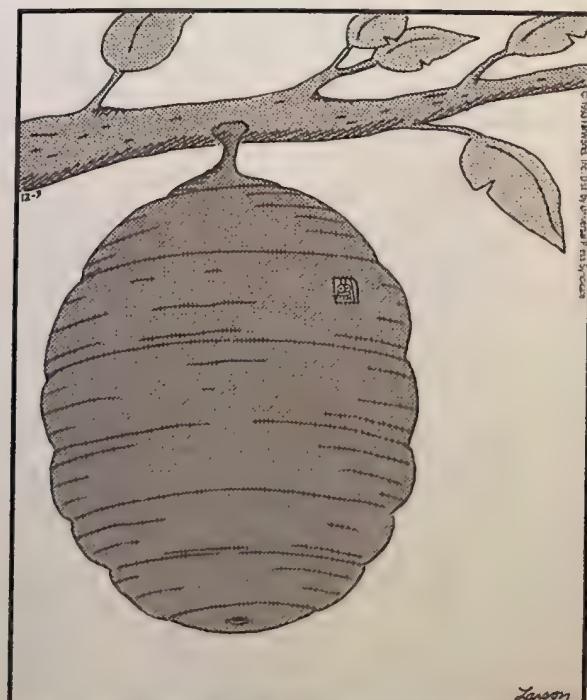
"No, no. ... Not this one. Too many bells and whistles."



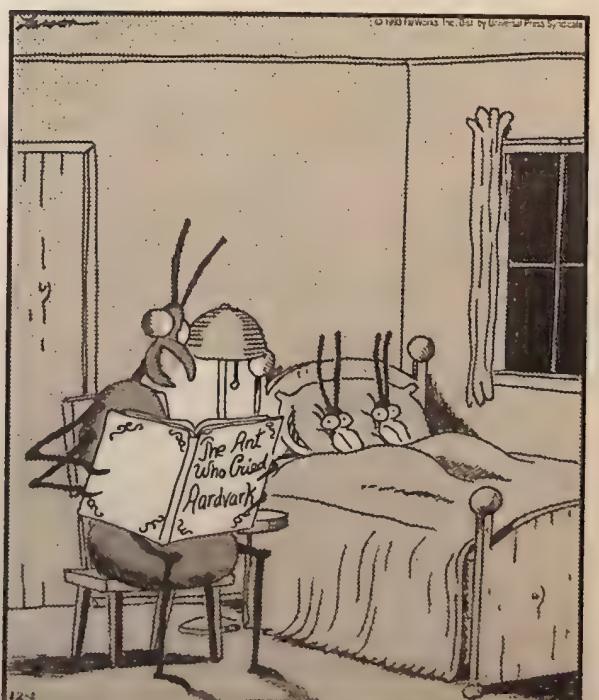
It was a special moment, as father and son watched their weekend project attract its first tenant.



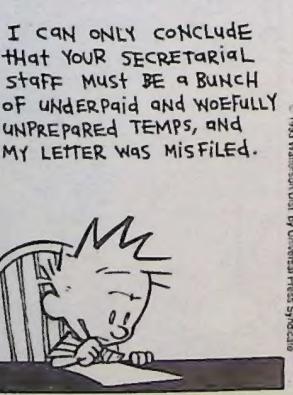
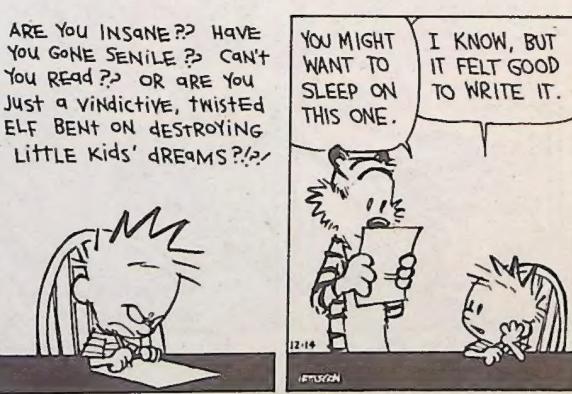
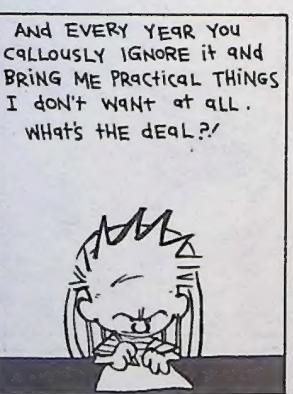
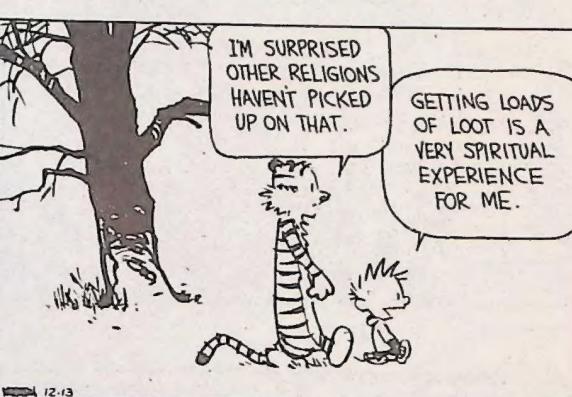
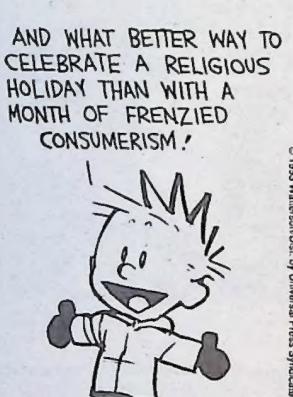
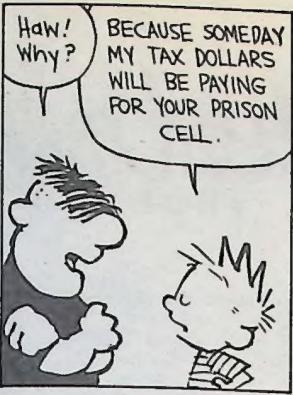
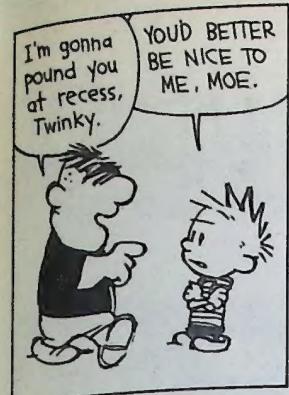
Jurassic parking



Iggy knew he was extremely lucky to get a room with a view.

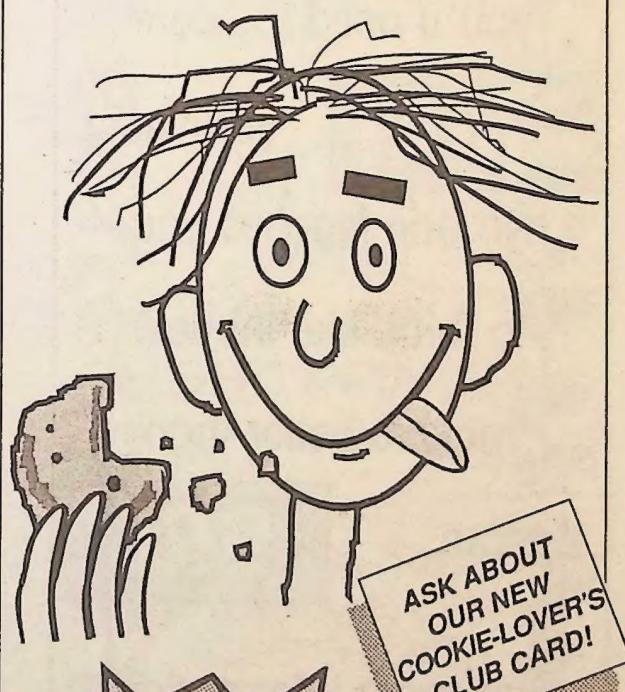






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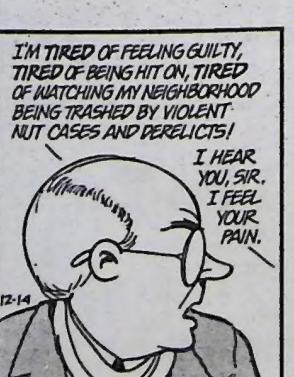
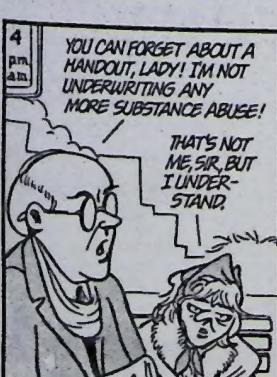
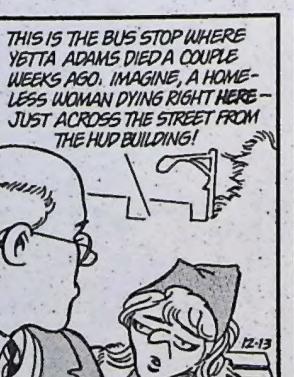
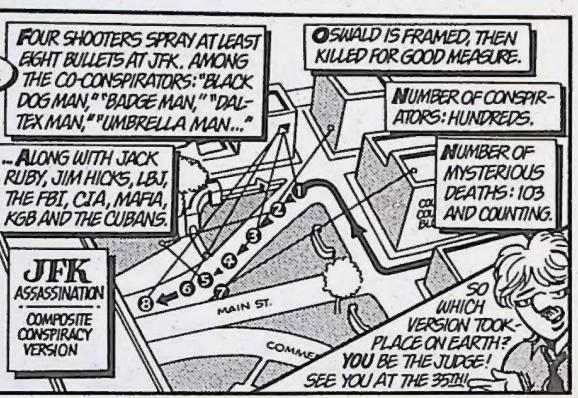
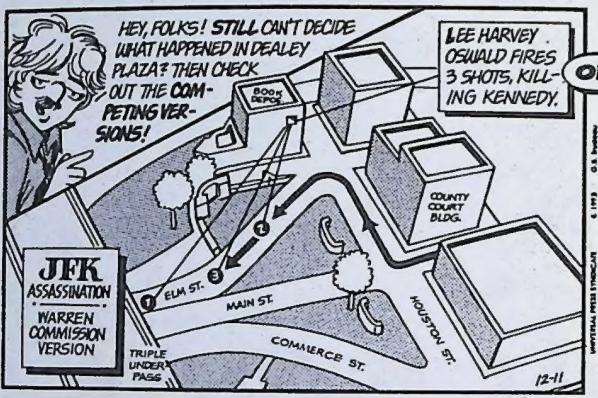
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